GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:231
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2002
CRITERIA FOR IDENTIFICATION OF BPL PEOPLE
KAILASH MEGHWAL;RASA SINGH RAWAT

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for identifying the people living below the poverty line and the date on which such exercise was undertaken last ;

(b) whether the Government propose to review the criteria for determination of persons below the poverty line in order to include those deprived and poor who have been left out of the BPL;

(c) if so, the details thereof ;

(d) the number of people brought above the poverty line through various poverty alleviation and rural development schemes as on date, State-wise;

(e) the details of the agency through which the survey was conducted;

(f) whether the Government have received any complaints about fudging the BPL figures;

(g) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(h) the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR)

(a) to (h): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in Reply to Parts (a) to (h) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 231 due for Answer on 30th July, 2002

The Ministry of Rural Development conduct the Below Poverty Line(BPL) Census in the rural areas of the country in the beginning of each Five Year Plan period, through the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, for identification of persons living Below the Poverty Line. The methodology and criteria for identification of the BPL households in the rural areas are finalised taking into account the recommendations of an Expert Group constituted for the purpose. As per the methodology adopted for the last BPL Census conducted during 1997-98, any rural household fulfilling at least one of the following criteria would be excluded from the BPL list:

(a) Operating more than two hectare of land,

(b) Having a pucca house,

(c) Ownership of Consumer durables namely, TV, Refrigerator, Ceiling Fan fixed to a pucca roof, Motor Cycle/ Scooter /Three Wheeler,

(d) Ownership of farm implements namely, Tractor, Power Tiller, Combined Thresher/ Harvester.

(e) Annual Income of any resident member of the household from salary/self employment being more than Rs. 20,000/- per annum.

2. Another Expert Group has since been set up to advise on the methodology and Survey Schedule to be employed during the next BPL Census which is due to be conducted in the current year. The Report of the Expert Group, which has reviewed the criteria adopted in the previous BPL Census and has considered the views of the State Governments / Union Territory Administrations in this regard, is awaited.

3. The Concurrent Evaluation of the (erstwhile) Integrated Rural Development Progamme (IRDP) conducted during the year, 1995-96 revealed that 84.96 percent of the old beneficiaries had crossed the poverty line of Rs. 6400/- per year and 46.34 percent had crossed the revised poverty line of Rs. 11,000/- per year. The Poverty Alleviation Programmes of the Ministry have contributed towards reducing the poverty level in the country. The percentage of rural persons living Below the Poverty Line in 1999-2000 has

come down to 27.09 from 37.27 in 1993-94. The State wise estimates of the Planning Commission for the year 1999-2000 (30 day recall period) are given at Annexure.

4 Certain instances of non-deserving persons finding place in the BPL list and of non- inclusion of others in the BPL list in different States have come to light. As per the instructions issued by the Ministry, the BPL list of each village is to be finalised with the approval of the Gram Sabha. The State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations have been advised to strictly follow the instructions in this behalf.

Annexure referred to in the Reply to Parts (a) to (h) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 231 due for Answer on 30th July, 2002.

SNo State Poverty Ratio (rural) 1999-00

1	ANDHRA PRADESH	11.05
2	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	40.04
3	ASSAM	40.04
4	BIHAR	44.30
5	GOA	1.35
6	GUJARAT	13.17
7	HARYANA	8.27
8	HIMACHAL PRADESH	7.94
9	J & K	3.97
10	KARNATAKA	17.38
11	KERALA	9.38
12	MADHYA PRADESH	37.06
13	MAHARASHTRA	23.72
14	MANIPUR	40.04
15	MEGHALAYA	40.04
16	MIZORAM	40.04
17	NAGALAND	40.04
18	ORISSA	48.01
19	PUNJAB	6.35
20	RAJASTHAN	13.74
21	SIKKIM	40.04
22	TAMIL NADU	20.55
23	TRIPURA	40.04
24	UTTAR PRADESH	31.22
25	WEST BENGAL	31.85
26	A & N ISLANDS	20.55
27	CHANDIGARH	5.75
28	D&N HAVELI	17.57
29	DAMAN & DIU	1.35
30	DELHI	0.40
31	LAKSHADWEEP	9.38
32	PONDICHERRY	20.55
	Total	27.09

1. Poverty Ratio of Assam is used for Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura.

2. Poverty Ratio of Tamil Nadu is used for Pondicherry and A & N Islands.

3. Poverty Ratio of Kerala is used for Lakshdweep.

4. Poverty Ratio of Goa is used for Daman & Diu

5. Urban Poverty Ratio of Punjab used for both rural and urban poverty of Chandigarh.

6. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Goa is used to estimate poverty ratio of Goa.

7. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Dadra & Nagar Haveli is used to estimate poverty ratio of Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

8. Poverty Ratio of Himachal Pradesh is used for Jammu & Kashmir for 1993-94.

9. Urban Poverty Ratio of Rajasthan may be treated as tentative.

10. Estimates on a 30 day recall basis for 1999 - 2000.